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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/328,667	06/09/1999	RADHIKA R. ROY	2685/113394	7119
26652	7590	02/23/2005	EXAMINER	
AT&T CORP. P.O. BOX 4110 MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748			DUONG, DUC T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2663	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/328,667

Applicant(s)

ROY, RADHIKA R.

Examiner

Duc T. Duong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-15,17-25 and 27-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-15,17-25 and 27-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-25, and 27-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, 17, 19-25, 27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Galasso et al (U.S. Patent 6,374,302 B1).

Regarding to claims 1, 11, and 21, Galasso discloses an apparatus for communication (Fig. 3) employing a plurality of gatekeepers (zone gatekeepers 510-540 and master gatekeepers 550-570) comprising a processor (col. 5 lines 37-40) and a memory (inherent) coupled to said processor, and said memory storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor for receiving 610 (Fig. 4 col. 7 lines 59-62) at a first gatekeeper 550 (Fig. 3) a request for information; determining 620 (Fig. 4 col. 3 lines 62-64) whether the information known by the first gatekeeper 550; sending 630 (Fig. 4 col. 7 lines 50-55, if the address is outside the US administrative domain coverage, the US master gatekeeper 550 queried the global master gatekeeper 570,

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which in turn queried the Europe master gatekeeper 560) the request via at least one intermediate gatekeeper 570 (Fig. 3) to a second gatekeeper 560 (Fig. 3) if the information is not known by the first gatekeeper 550; receiving the requested information from the second gatekeeper 560 via at least one intermediate gatekeeper 570 (Fig. 3 col. 7 lines 48-52; noted that in response to the query by the US master gatekeeper 560, the Europe master gatekeeper 560 will send a reply back to the US master gatekeeper 550 through the global master gatekeeper 570), wherein a hierarchical level associated with said first gatekeeper 550 is different from a hierarchical level associated with said intermediate gatekeeper 570 (Fig. 3 col. 3 lines 56-58, noted the master global gatekeeper 570 can have a hierarchy level higher than the US master gatekeeper 550); sending 670 (Fig. 4 col. 8 lines 5-8), the requested information to a third gatekeeper 510-520 (Fig. 3 col. 7 lines 34-37; each zone has a gatekeeper), wherein the first gatekeeper 550 and the third gatekeeper 510-520 are located in the same domain (Fig. 3 col. lines 34-37) and are of same hierarchical level (Fig. 3; the limitation of "same hierarchical level" is interpret as follow: Observing Fig. 4 of Applicant's invention, the Examiner see that the gatekeeper (third) in zone 420a are of same hierarchical level as the gatekeeper (first) in zone 420b, wherein both gatekeepers are directly connected to each other, and now observing Fig. 3 of Galasso patent, the Examiner see that the gatekeeper (third) in zone 510 or 520 is directly connect to the US master gatekeeper (first) 550; based on the observation of the two figures, the Examiner concluded both figures has the same structure and thus, the zone gatekeeper 510-520 are of same hierarchical level as the US master gatekeeper 550;

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noted the since the limitation "same hierarchical level" is not specifically defined in the specification, the limitation is given the broadest interpretation; so even though zone gatekeeper 510-520 is not diagram as being side-by-side with the US master gatekeeper 550, both gatekeepers are still of same hierarchal level; that's they are both directly connect to one another, which is exactly the same way the Applicant first and third gatekeepers connected) and wherein said request was received from said third gatekeeper 510-520 (Fig. 4 col. 7 lines 59-62) without said request having been sent through any other gatekeeper (Fig. 3; noted zone gatekeeper 510-520 is a directly connect to the US master gatekeeper 550 connected to the US master gatekeeper 550 and thus, the request send from the zone gatekeeper 510 to the master gatekeeper 550 does not go through any other gatekeeper).

Galasso fails to teach for the first gatekeeper and the third gatekeeper are of a same hierarchical level.

However, to arrange the first gatekeeper (US master gatekeeper) and the third gatekeeper (zone gatekeeper) of a same hierarchical level would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art for scaling the administrative domain coverage, meaning the domain coverage will be scale between the US master gatekeeper and zone gatekeeper.

Regarding to claims 2, 12, and 22, Galasso discloses storing the received information in at least one of the first, intermediate and second gatekeepers (Fig. 2 col. 5 lines 30-36).

Regarding to claims 3, 13, and 23, Galasso discloses determining the next gatekeeper in the gatekeeper-level path to the requested information (Fig. 3 col. 5 lines 2-7).

Regarding to claims 4, 5, 14, 15, 24, and 25, Galasso discloses the information includes an application address and resource information (col. 5 lines 50-57, Table 1).

Regarding to claims 7, 17, and 27, Galasso discloses attempting to connect to a called entity using information contained in the information (Fig. 6 col. 8 lines 1-8).

Regarding to claims 9, 19, and 29, Galasso discloses the first gatekeeper is an inter-zone gatekeeper (Fig. 2 col. 4 lines 46).

Regarding to claims 10, 20, and 30, Galasso discloses plurality of zone gatekeeper can configured into a domain (col. 3 lines 54-56).

3. Claims 8, 18, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Galasso in view of Sengodan (U. S. Patent 6,426,945 B1).

Regarding to claims 8, 18, and 28, Galasso discloses all the limitation with respect to claims 1, 11, and 21, except for determining whether a hop-count field has been set to zero and if the hop-count field has been set to zero, dropping the received information.

However, Sengodan discloses a request message (Fig. 4) includes a hope count field uses to determine whether the message propagates further or not, by if the resulting values is not zero the message is forwarded to the next destination or else it is not forwarded (col. 6 lines 41-49).

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Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to include a hop-field count as taught by Sengodan in Galasso's system with the motivation facilitate inter-gatekeeper communication, wherein gatekeepers discover other gatekeepers and register with one or more of them.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc T. Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-3122. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00 AM-5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Q. Ngo can be reached on 571-272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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RICKY NGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

2/16/05